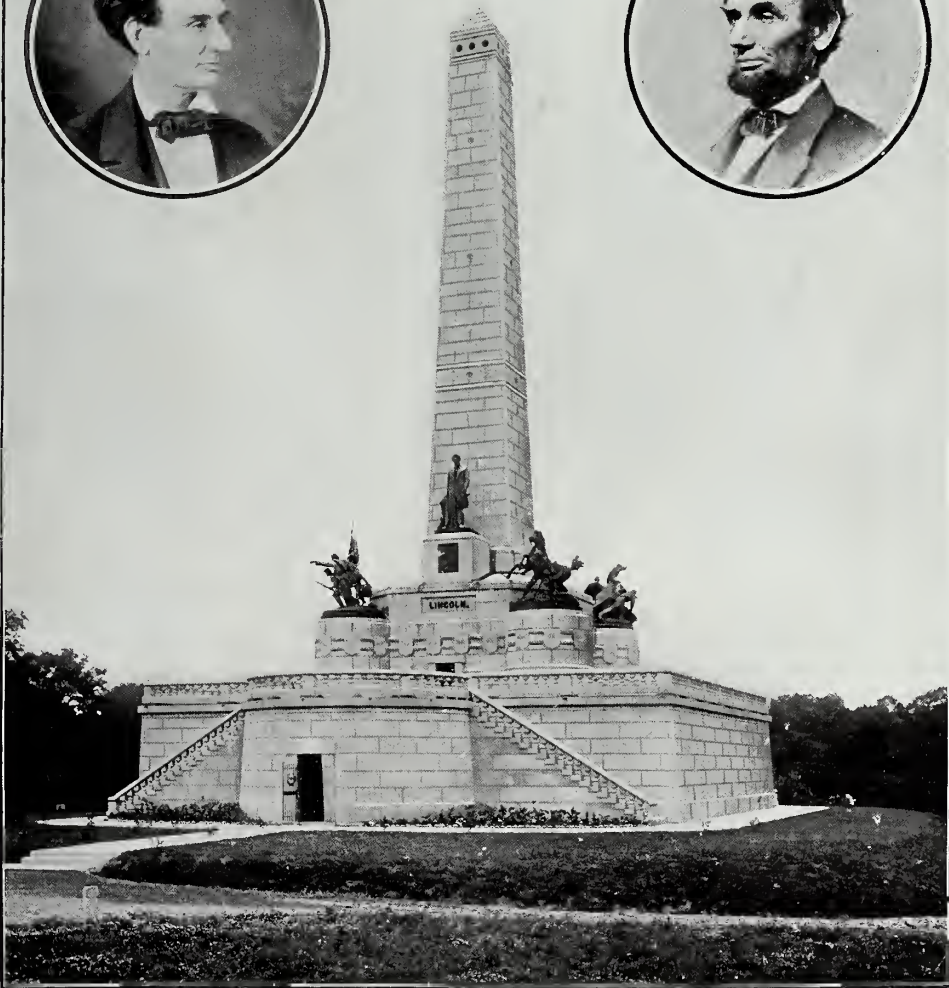


SPRINGFIELD, ILL.

NEW YORK
NEWS LETTER



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The New-York News-Letter.

ANNALS OF ILLINOIS.

1673.—Louis Joliet and Jacques Marquette descend the Mississippi to the mouth of the Arkansas, and on their return descend the Illinois and reach Lake Michigan via Desplaines and Chicago rivers.

1675.—Marquette descends the Illinois river nearly to Utica on a mission to the Indian tribes.

1680.—La Salle, Tonti and Hennepin, with a party of 33, descend the Kankakee and Illinois rivers, pass through Peoria Lake Jan. 3, and erect Fort Crevecoeur on the east shore of the outlet.

1682.—La Salle and Tonti descend the Illinois to the Mississippi, and the latter to its mouth. Returning, they build Fort St. Louis on Starved Rock, near the site of Utica.

1690.—The Illinois mission occupies site of Kaskaskia.

1719.—Philip Renault, with 200 mechanics and laborers and 500 negro slaves, founds St. Philips, a few miles above Kaskaskia.

1821.—Jesuits establish a monastery and college at Kaskaskia.

1756.—Fort Massac (or Massacre) is established and garrisoned by the French, about 40 miles from the mouth of the Ohio.

1765.—The French possessions in North America having passed to England by the treaty of 1763, the British occupy Fort Chartres, October 10.

1768.—Colonel Wilkins assumes, by proclamation from Fort Chartres, the government of the Illinois country, and appoints seven magistrates.

1772.—A freshet destroying a part of Fort Chartres, the seat of government is fixed at Fort Gage, opposite Kaskaskia.

1778.—Colonel George Rogers Clark, acting under authority of Patrick Henry, Governor of Virginia, reaches Kaskaskia with a military expedition in July. In October the territory is made a county by the Legislature of Virginia.

1777.—Temporary government proclaimed from Kaskaskia by Col. John Todd.

1784.—Illinois country ceded to the United States by Virginia.

1787.—The Northwestern Territory, including Illinois, organized by Congress.

1800.—Illinois set off from Northwest Territory.

1803.—By treaties made at Vincennes the Indians cede large tracts of land in Southern

Illinois. Fort Dearborn built at Chicago on the site of Michigan Avenue and River Street.

1804.—First permanent settler at Chicago. Territory between the Illinois and Wisconsin rivers ceded by the Indians.

1809.—Illinois made a Territory with seat of government at Kaskaskia. Ninian Edwards appointed Governor by President Madison.

1810.—Mail route established from Vincennes to St. Louis, via Kaskaskia and Cahokia.

1812.—Fort Dearborn evacuated by order of General Hull; fort burned and garrison massacred by Indians.

1816.—Bank of Illinois incorporated.

1818.—Enabling Act for State of Illinois approved April 18.

1818.—Convention meets at Kaskaskia, and frames a constitution (August); Illinois admitted to the Union in December.

1819.—John Kelly and family, from North Carolina, first white settlers at Springfield.

1820.—Seat of government removed to Vandalia.

1830.—Father of Abraham Lincoln removes from Indiana and settles in Macon County.

1832.—Black Hawk invades Illinois with 150 warriors and attacks unsuccessfully, at Apple River Fort (June 6) and Kellogg's Grove (June 26). A. Lincoln a captain.

1834.—Abraham Lincoln elected to Legislature (re-elected in 1836, 1838 and 1840).

1837.—Chicago gets city charter. Springfield made seat of State government; corner-stone of State capitol laid.

1846.—Mormon exodus—2,000 cross the Mississippi on the ice. Abraham Lincoln elected to Congress.

1839.—Legislature first meets in Springfield—Assembly in First Presbyterian Church, Senate in First Methodist, and Superior Court in Episcopal.

1840.—Mormons locate in Hancock County and found Nauvoo.

1853.—Illinois Wesleyan University chartered and opened at Bloomington.

1854.—N. W. Edwards appointed State Superintendent of common schools.

1855.—System of free schools authorized.

1855.—Northwestern University opened at Evanston.

1857.—Illinois State University opened at Normal.

(Continued on page 3 of cover.)



LINCOLN HOMESTEAD.

Photo. by Guy R. Mathis.

MR. LINCOLN IN SPRINGFIELD.

MR. LINCOLN removed from New Salem to Springfield in April, 1837. He had previously been farmer, flat-boatman, soldier, merchant, surveyor, post-master and law student. He had been twice elected to the Legislature, and one of his colleagues, Major John T. Stuart, who had encouraged him to study law, now took him into partnership. The sessions of the Legislature continued to be held at Vandalla until 1839, and Mr. Lincoln continued a member until 1842.

During these five years occurred those early love affairs which stirred his nature so deeply that his health was at one time seriously affected. His first love was Miss Anne Rutledge, a young woman of temperament and disposition very much like his own, but who died before the engagement was consummated. About a year later, when a neighbor (Mrs. Able) was starting for Kentucky, she remarked to Mr. Lincoln that she would bring her sister back with her if he would become her (Mrs. Able's) brother-in-law. Mr. Lincoln knew

the sister—Miss Mary Owens—and he agreed to the proposition. Miss Owens returned with her sister, and Mr. Lincoln held himself bound to pay court to her and to make good his promise if she accepted him. The burden of his letters to her—some of which have been preserved—is first, a desire to do right in the matter; second, a fear that he would not make her happy. She seems to have declined his offer, and he seems then to have concluded that he cared more for her than he thought.

Mr. Lincoln was meanwhile becoming well known as a lawyer and a politician. In the Legislature, where his party was in the minority, he twice received the minority vote for speaker of the Assembly. He took an active part in the Harrison campaign of 1840, and was an elector on the Whig ticket. About this time he became engaged to Miss Mary Todd, whose sister was the wife of Mr. Ninian W. Edwards, a prominent Whig from Sangamon County. But the course of true love did not run smooth; there was an estrangement, and Mr. Lincoln declared in a letter to his law partner that he was "the most miserable man living."

He felt unable to attend the session of the Legislature in January, 1841, and after its close, his friend, Joshua F. Speed, persuaded him to go with him to Kentucky. While in Kentucky Mr. Speed fell in love, and seems to have passed through a period of hesitation and doubt before deciding to marry. When he was finally married and wrote Lincoln that he was happy, Mr. Lincoln replied: "The short space it took me to read your last letter gave me more real pleasure than the total sum of all I have enjoyed since the fatal first of January, 1841. Since then it seems to me I should have been entirely happy, but for the never-absent idea that there is one still unhappy whom I have contributed to make so. That still kills my soul. I cannot but reproach myself for even wishing to be happy while she is otherwise."

Almost a Duel.

During the summer of 1842 some of the young women of Springfield wrote for the "Sangamo Journal" a series of humorous letters, using the local political situation as a theme, and making Auditor (afterward General) Shields the butt of their jokes. In order to make their political jibes more effective they consulted Mr. Lincoln, and he wrote the first article of the series. This led to a challenge from Shields and its acceptance by Mr. Lincoln, after an offer by the latter of an explanation that ought to have ended the matter. Mr. Lincoln injected a touch of grim humor into the situation by choosing broadswords as weapons, and for the field a space ten feet long and twice the length of the swords in width, with a plank set on edge in the ground through the middle. The combatants were not to pass over the plank nor over the line. After reaching the ground selected, a peaceful adjustment was made. A still happier outcome was that these occurrences brought Mr. Lincoln and Miss Todd together in friendly interviews, and that they were married on November 4, 1842.

Elected to Congress.

In 1841 the partnership between Mr. Lincoln and Major Stuart was dissolved and a new one was formed with Judge Stephen T. Logan. Stuart served two terms in Congress, retiring in 1843, and Mr. Lincoln became an aspirant for the nomination,

which he secured and was elected three years later. During his two years' service he made three set speeches, one to show that the Mexican war had been unnecessarily and unconstitutionally begun by President Polk; one on the subject of internal improvements, and a third on the political situation, favoring the election of General Taylor to the Presidency.

During the second session of this Congress he framed and introduced a bill providing for compensated emancipation of slaves in the District of Columbia. Although the bill was approved by leading citizens of Washington, including the conservative Mayor, and by Mr. Giddings, the radical anti-slavery member of the House, it was not permitted to come to a vote. It having been agreed that Congressional aspirants from Springfield should limit their ambition to a single term, Mr. Lincoln's partner was nominated to succeed him, but was defeated at the polls. In the distribution of federal offices under President Taylor, Mr. Lincoln was offered the governorship of Oregon Territory, but declined it.

Anti-Slavery Agitation.

Following his term in Congress, Mr. Lincoln applied himself assiduously to the practice of law until 1854, when "the repeal of the Missouri Compromise aroused him as he had never been before." In the autumn of that year he made several speeches in support of Hon. Richard Yates for Congress. Of the Repeal he said: "Repeal the Missouri Compromise, repeal all compromises, repeal the Declaration of Independence, repeal all past history, you still cannot repeal human nature. It still will be the abundance of man's heart that slavery extension is wrong, and out of the abundance of his heart his mouth will continue to speak."

Mr. Lincoln was the candidate of his party for United States Senator the next winter, but being in a minority, his friends finally united with five Anti-Nebraska Democrats and elected Hon. Lyman Trumbull. Reviewing these events, Mr. Lincoln said in the following year: "That spirit which desired the peaceful extinction of slavery has itself become extinct with the occasion and the men of the Revolution. Under the impulse of that occasion, nearly half the States adopted systems of emanci-

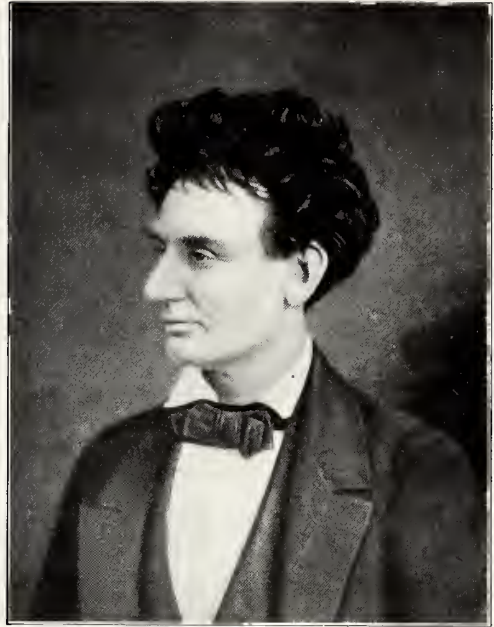
pation at once, and it is a significant fact that not a single State has done the like since. Our political problem now is, can we, as a nation, continue together permanently—forever—half slave and half free?"

In 1856 Mr. Lincoln assisted in the organization of the Republican party in Illinois, and was a delegate to the convention that nominated John C. Fremont, himself receiving 110 votes on the first ballot for Vice-President. He made over fifty speeches during the campaign, and when his opponents said the agitation against the extension of slavery would destroy the Union, he replied: "We do not want to dissolve the Union; you shall not." When Buchanan was elected, Lincoln called attention to the fact that our government rests on public opinion, that opposition to slavery extension had a majority of 400,000 votes, and urged a re-inauguration of the good old "central idea" of the Republic that "all men are created equal." "We can do it," he said. "The human heart is with us. God is with us."

The Dred Scott Decision.

In the following year the Supreme Court of the United States declared in the Dred Scott case that neither Congress nor a territorial legislature had power to prohibit slavery in the Territories. This placed both the Republicans and the Douglas Democrats in a dilemma. Mr. Lincoln met it by saying: "We think the Dred Scott decision erroneous. We know the court that made it has often overruled its own decisions, and we shall do what we can to have it overrule this. We offer no resistance to it." He called attention to the fact that the decision was not unanimous, nor in accordance with the practice of the departments of the Government, in all its past history; that it was based on assumed historical facts that were not true, and claimed that it had not yet established a settled doctrine for the country. Douglas made it tally with his popular sovereignty doctrine by saying that a guarantee of the Constitution remained a barren right unless enforced by local legislation and police regulations.

The efforts of Buchanan's administration to make Kansas a slave State widened the breach between it and the followers of Senator Douglas who, in 1858, canvassed the State for a re-election. Against him the Republicans nominated Mr. Lincoln, and



MR. LINCOLN IN 1856.

From a tintype now in the possession of Mrs. Paddock, of Princeton, Ill., to whom it was given by Mr. Lincoln. Photo. by Guy R. Mathis.

This man, whose homely face you look upon,
Was one of Nature's masterful great men;
Born with strong arms, that unfought battles won;
Direct of speech and cunning with the pen.

Chosen for large designs, he had the art
Of winning with his humor, and he went
Straight to his mark, which was the human heart;
Wise, too, for what he could not break,
he bent.

Upon his back a more than Atlas-load,
The burden of the Commonwealth, was laid;
He stooped, and rose up to it, though the road
Shot suddenly downwards, not a whit dismayed.

Hold, warriors, councillors, kings! all now
give place
To this dear benefactor of the Race.
—R. H. Stoddard.

the two met in joint debate on seven different occasions. Mr. Lincoln asserted that, either the opponents of slavery would arrest its extension and place it in the course of ultimate extinction, or its advocates would push it forward until it became lawful in



SOUTH FRONT ROOM—LINCOLN HOMESTEAD.

Sofa used in parlor where Mr. Lincoln and Douglas courted their wives. Chair was Lincoln's. Frame on same contains letter written by George Washington. Photo, made for NEWS-LETTER, Feb. 11, 1903, by Guy R. Mathis.

all the States. He insisted, in opposition to Douglas' theory of local police regulations, that slavery had gone into the territories without it, and that territorial legislatures or Congress would be obliged to uphold constitutional rights. After his defeat, Mr. Lincoln said: "Douglas had the ingenuity to be supported in the late contest, both by the best means to break down and to uphold the slave interest. No ingenuity can keep these antagonistic elements in harmony long. Another explosion will soon come."

Not a Fanatic.

Between 1858 and 1860 Mr. Lincoln's efforts were directed against any obscuring of the real issue before the country, and against following any false lights. He urged that the question of slavery extension should not be ignored, nor local issues magnified to gain support. Yet he was so far from being a fanatic, that when the John Brown raid occurred in 1859, he said:

"John Brown's effort was peculiar. It was not a slave insurrection. It was an attempt by white men to get up a revolt among slaves, in which the slaves refused to participate. In fact, it was so absurd that the slaves, with all their ignorance, saw plainly enough it could not succeed. That affair, in its philosophy, corresponds with the many attempts, related in history, at the assassination of kings and emperors. An enthusiast broods over the oppression of a people till he fancies himself commissioned by Heaven to liberate them. He ventures the attempt, which ends in little else than his own execution."

In December, 1859, Mr. Lincoln made several addresses in Kansas, the key-note of which was that, "we must have a national policy as to slavery, which deals with it as being a wrong." He delivered a number of speeches in the eastern states during the following winter, of which his famous Cooper Union speech was a type. The chief points made were, that those who framed



NORTH FRONT ROOM—LINCOLN HOMESTEAD.

Lamps on mantel and table used at Lincoln's wedding. Chair with ribbons was "Tad's." From Photo. by Guy R. Mathis.

the Constitution and the amendments thereto never assumed that Congress had no control over slavery in the territories; that if slavery was right it should not be legislated against, if it was wrong it should not be allowed to spread; that those who thought it wrong could afford to let it alone where it was, because that much was due to the necessity arising from its actual presence in the nation.

Elected President.

The Republican National Convention met in Chicago on May 16, 1860. Its platform denied "the authority of Congress, of a territorial legislature, or of any individuals to give legal existence to slavery in any Territory in the United States." Mr. Lincoln was nominated for President on the third ballot. After an exciting campaign he was elected by a majority of fifty-four in the electoral college. During the interval between his election and inauguration, seven of the southern States seceded from

the Union, organized the "Confederate States of America," elected and inaugurated a President, and enacted laws for raising and organizing an army of 100,000 men. Nearly all the military posts, arsenals, navy yards, mints and custom-houses within the seceded States were seized; the forts that refused to surrender were besieged, and expeditions sent to their relief were fired upon and compelled to turn back.

During this interval, as well as during the presidential campaign, Mr. Lincoln was urged to make some public declaration that would stay the progress of disunion. He usually declined, on the ground that he had many times disclaimed any intention of interfering with slavery where it already existed, and that to repeat it would do no good. In December, however, he wrote to Alexander H. Stephens (afterward Vice-President of the Confederate States) asking for a copy of his speech against secession, and in a correspondence which followed he said: "Do the people of the South really

entertain fears that a Republican administration would, directly or indirectly, interfere with the slaves, or with them about the slaves? If they do, I wish to assure you, as once a friend*, and still I hope, not an enemy, that there is no cause for such fears. The South would be in no more danger in this respect than it was in the days of Washington."

Leaves Springfield.

Mr. Lincoln left Springfield for Washington on February 11th. From the platform of the car he made this farewell address to his fellow-townsmen:

"My Friends: No one, not in my situation, can appreciate my feeling of sadness at this parting. To this place and the kindness of these people, I owe everything. Here I have lived a quarter of a century, and have passed from a young to an old man. Here my children have been born, and one is buried. I now leave, not knowing when or whether ever I may return, with a task before me greater than that which rested upon Washington. Without the assistance of that Divine Being who ever attended him, I cannot succeed. With that assistance I cannot fail. Trusting in Him who can go with me, and remain with you, and be everywhere for good, let us confidently hope that all will yet be well. To His care commending you, as I hope in your prayers you will commend me, I bid you an affectionate farewell."

On the morning of May 3, 1865, a funeral train, bearing the body of the martyred President, entered Springfield. It had come over the same route traversed by Mr. Lincoln on his way to Washington four years and three months before. Then he went to his work, now he returned to his rest. For a day the body lay in the Capitol, within a bower of bloom, while his old friends and neighbors bade him a silent hail and farewell, and then a procession moved to Oak Ridge, and all that was mortal of Abraham Lincoln was committed to the earth. They read at his open grave his last inaugural address, justifying the ways of God, deprecating malice and invoking charity, and then they "left him alone in his glory."

—Condensed from "A Short Life of Abraham Lincoln," by John G. Nicolay, The Century Company.

* Mr. Stephens was a member of the House with Mr. Lincoln, in 1847-49.



LINCOLN'S LAW DESK.

The chair once belonged to Daniel Webster. Photographed in Lincoln Homestead Feb. 11, 1903, for the NEWS-LETTER, by Guy R. Mathis.

There are very different kinds of success. There is the success that brings with it the seared soul—the success which is achieved by wolfish greed and vulpine cunning—the success which makes honest men uneasy or indignant in its presence. Then there is the other kind of success—the success which comes as the reward of keen insight, of sagacity, of resolution, of address, combined with unflinching rectitude of behavior, public and private. The first kind of success may, in a sense—and a poor sense at that—benefit the individual, but it is always and necessarily a curse to the community; whereas the man who wins the second kind as an incident of its winning becomes a beneficiary to the whole commonwealth.

—President Roosevelt.

WIDOWED.

My little babe! No cradle song
I sing to thee to-night.
Across my eyes a bar of blood
Has burn'd thee from my sight.

And yet, they say, the fight goes on!
O, thou who art his son,
Should it go on a thousand years,
For us the war is done.

—F. V. Lewis, in *Outlook*, London.